

Presenters

Facilitator

Janice M. Fleischer, J.D., Principal, FLASH Resolutions

Janice Fleischer is a Florida Supreme Court certified mediator, a qualified mediation trainer, and the designer and administrator of a court-based family mediation program. She designed and taught the first mediation class at the University of Miami School of Law and is Past-President of the Florida Association of Professional Family Mediators. Ms. Fleischer serves on the Florida Mediator Qualifications Board and is currently the Chair of the Ethics Subcommittee of the Environmental Public Policy Section of the Association for Conflict Resolution. She practiced law from 1978 until 1990, when she began her full-time Alternate Dispute Resolution practice, and has published articles on group facilitation and public policy conflict resolution.

South Florida Water Management District Presenters

Dr. Susan Gray, *Aquatic Biologist, the South Florida Water Management District*Dr. Susan Gray is an aquatic biologist with the South Florida Water Management District, with more than 25 years professional experience in this field. She is currently the Deputy Director of the Watershed Management Department and serves as the Program Manager for the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Program. In this capacity, Dr. Gray oversees areas that include the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and Kissimmee River, Lake Okeechobee and the coastal estuaries. Dr. Gray has been with the SFWMD since 1992. Prior to coming to the District, she worked for an environmental consulting firm and for the Department of Environmental Protection. Dr. Gray received her B.A. and M.A in Biology from San Francisco State University and her Ph.D. in Biological Science from Florida State University.

George L. Horne, *Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance Resources,* George Horne oversees operations and maintenance of the Central and Southern Florida Project, as well as other District water control and conveyance facilities – including nearly 2,000 miles of canals, 2,200 water control structures, and 60 pump stations across the District's 16-county region. His department's activities also include management of stormwater treatment areas; treatment of over 60,000 acres of vegetation yearly; and managing a fleet of 1,000 vehicles and heavy equipment, and emergency response teams. Mr. Horne has 34 years of District experience in water resource operations and maintenance. His career highlights include pump station design, automation and supervision, engineering management, team building and efficiency expertise. Most recently, he has been involved in future planning for Herbert Hoover Dike repairs.

Melissa L. Meeker, Governing Board Member

Melissa Meeker has 15 years experience in environmental resources management with responsibilities for both policy development and implementation. A Governing Board member of the South Florida Water Management District, she is one of nine Governor-appointed members who set policy for the agency's work in water resource management, environmental restoration and flood protection. Ms. Meeker is the owner of Hesperides Group, a planning firm specializing in integrated water resource planning, and Women in the Environment, a networking association for women in environmental fields. Ms. Meeker previously worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as the Southeast District Director where she was responsible for implementation of State regulatory programs including ERP, water facilities, waste management and air resources management. Ms. Meeker has a bachelor's degree in Marine Biology and a master's degree in Environmental Resource Management.

Cal Neidrauer, Chief Consulting Engineer, Operations Control Department
Cal Neidrauer holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Purdue University and has 22 years experience in the planning, analysis, and operation of South Florida's water resources as an employee of the South Florida Water Management District. Mr. Neidrauer is a registered professional engineer, and as chief consulting engineer in the SFWMD's Operations Department, he participates in the water control operation and operations-planning of the regional water management system spanning from Orlando to Florida Bay. Prior to his current role, he designed, built and supervised the application of regional-scale hydrologic models for the planning of South Florida's water resources, including the 1999 Central and Southern Florida Project Restudy, which led to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. He also has worked closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop improved operating rules for the system, including Lake Okeechobee and Everglades National Park.

Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Hydrologic & Environmental Systems Modeling Department
Jayantha Obeysekera holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Sri Lanka,
a master's in engineering from the University of Roorkee, India, and a Ph.D. in civil engineering with a
specialization in water resources from Colorado State University. Dr. Obeysekera has published numerous
research articles in the field of water resources and brings more than 20 years of experience in water
resources engineering with an emphasis on computer modeling. He recently was appointed to a
committee of the National Research Council to review hydrologic studies of the Klamath River Basin
in Oregon and California, and as an external advisory member to review computer modeling of the
New Orleans area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He also is a co-principal investigator for a U.S.
National Science Foundation funded project on the investigation of tsunami impacts on coastal water
resources in Sri Lanka. Prior to joining the SFWMD in 1987, he worked as an assistant professor in the
Department of Civil Engineering at Colorado State University. He also has taught water resources and
environmental engineering courses at George Washington University, Florida Atlantic University and
the University of South Florida.

Susan Sylvester, Director, Operations Control Department

Following 21 years of service at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Susan Sylvester joined the South Florida Water Management in December 2005 as deputy director of the department she now leads. Throughout her career, Ms. Sylvester has held formal leadership positions and facilitated complex negotiations between state and federal agencies dealing with restoration goals for the Everglades. Among her various responsibilities while at the Corps, she served as assistant chief of the Jacksonville District's Survey Branch, acting chief of the Water Management and Meteorology Section on several occasions, and most recently as water management technical specialist for the operation of water control structures within the Jacksonville District. Ms. Sylvester holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Tennessee and a master's of engineering in civil and environmental engineering from Cornell University.

Carol Ann Wehle, Executive Director

Carol Ann Wehle is Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District. A frequent keynote speaker and expert panelist on Florida water law and policies, she is the first woman to hold the CEO position at any of the state's five water management districts. She oversees a staff of 1771 and a budget of \$1.28 billion. The District's extensive mission is to balance and improve water quality, flood control, water supply and natural systems for a 16-county area, including restoration of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

A civil engineer, Ms. Wehle initially joined the South Florida District in 2001, following nine years of service with the St. Johns River Water Management District. She was Brevard County Commissioner and served five years on the Sebastian Inlet Tax District Commission. Previously, Ms. Wehle worked at Kennedy Space Center as well as for private-sector firms. She received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.